

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to enter the above amendments prior to examination of this application.

Status of Claims

Claims 12 to 30 will be pending after entry of the present amendment. Claim 1 is being canceled without prejudice.

Amendment

New Claims 12 to 30 replace original Claims 1 to 11, and are being presented to better conform with US patent practice. These new claims are supported by the specification for example as shown in the Table below (cites to the specification are for the English translation):

Claim	Support in Specification
12	page 3, line 25 to page 4, line 6
13	page 9, lines 23 to 24
14	page 10, lines 9 to 11
15, 19	page 10, line 28 to page 11, line 12
16, 20	page 5, lines 20 to 27
17	page 12, lines 11 to 15
18	page 12, lines 13 to 14, page 13, lines 6 to 13, original claim 7
21	page 14, lines 8 to 13
22, 23, 24, 26	page 13, lines 19 to 30
25	page 12, lines 16 to 25
27	page 14, lines 16 to 19
28	page 14, lines 8 to 13
29	page 14, lines 14 to 15
30	page 14, lines 8 to 13

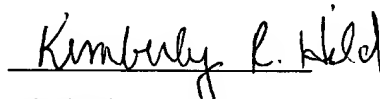
No new matter is added by the new claims or amendments to the specification. The mean diameter of the WDP gypsum particles is measured with a Sympatec Helos H0720 in isopropanol.

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CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request early and favorable notification of allowance of all pending claims. The Assistant Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency in the required fee or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 01-1250 in connection with this amendment.

Respectfully submitted,



Kimberly R. Hild
(Reg. No. 39,224)
Attorney for Applicants
(610) 278-4964

Henkel Corporation
Law Department
2500 Renaissance Boulevard, Suite 200
Gulph Mills, PA 19406

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B' 12. (New) A composition comprising:

(a) at least one water-soluble polymer or water-dispersible polymer, or combinations thereof; and

(b) one or more filler particles comprising WDP gypsum particles, wherein the WDP gypsum particles are obtained from waste-gas desulphurization plants and have a particle size distribution mean diameter ranging from 13 μm to 500 μm .

13. (New) The composition of claim 12, wherein the particle size distribution mean diameter of the WDP gypsum particles ranges from 30 μm to 250 μm .

14. (New) The composition of claim 13, wherein the filler particles comprise at least one other type of filler particles in addition to the WDP gypsum particles.

15. (New) The composition of claim 14, wherein the other type of filler particles comprise inorganic filler particles selected from the group consisting of chalk, titanium dioxide, barium sulfate, silica flour, silica gel, dolomite, kaolin and combinations thereof.

16. (New) The composition of claim 15, wherein the water-soluble or water dispersible polymer is selected from the group consisting of polyurethanes, polyacrylates, polymethacrylates, polyvinyl esters, polystyrenes, polybutadienes, polyamides, polyesters, polyvinyl chlorides, ethylene/vinyl acetate copolymers, styrene/butadiene copolymers, styrene/acrylonitrile polymers, styrene/acrylate copolymers and combinations thereof.

17. (New) The composition of claim 16, wherein the filler particles are present in the composition in a total amount of at least 40 weight percent, based on the total weight of the composition.

18. (New) The composition of claim 17, wherein the composition comprises from 50 weight percent to 99 weight percent of the WDP gypsum particles or a mixture of the WDP gypsum particles and the at least one other type of inorganic filler particles, from 1 weight percent to 50 weight percent of the water-soluble or water dispersible polymer, from 0 weight percent to 49 weight percent by weight of water, and from 0 weight percent to 49 weight percent of other additives.

19. (New) The composition of claim 12, wherein the filler particles, in addition to the WDP gypsum particles, comprise at least one other type of filler particles selected from the group consisting of chalk, titanium dioxide, barium sulfate, silica flour, silica gel, dolomite, kaolin and combinations thereof.

20. (New) The composition of claim 12, wherein the water-soluble or water dispersible polymer is selected from the group consisting of polyurethanes, polyacrylates, polymethacrylates, polyvinyl esters, polystyrenes, polybutadienes, polyamides, polyesters, polyvinyl chlorides, ethylene/vinyl acetate copolymers, styrene/butadiene copolymers, styrene/acrylonitrile polymers, styrene/acrylate copolymers and combinations thereof.

21. (New) The composition of claim 12 wherein the composition is a surface coating, a surfacing composition, a sealing composition, an adhesive, or a molding composition.

22. (New) A process for preparing a polymer-containing composition comprising combining in any order one or more water-soluble polymers or water-dispersible polymers, or combinations thereof with filler particles, wherein the filler particles comprise WDP gypsum particles that are obtained from waste-gas desulphurization plants and have a particle size distribution mean diameter ranging from 13 μm to 500 μm to form the polymer-containing composition.

23. (New) The process of claim 22 wherein the filler particles comprise a mixture of the WDP gypsum particles and at least one other type of inorganic filler particles.

24. (New) The process of claim 22 wherein the water-soluble polymers or water-dispersible polymers are in an aqueous dispersion prior to the combination with the filler particles.

25. (New) The process of claim 22 wherein the polymer-containing composition is in the form of a solid powder, a paste, an aqueous dispersion, or a non-aqueous liquid.

26. (New) The process of claim 22 wherein water or one or more other additives, or combinations thereof are combined in any order with the polymers and filler particles to form the polymer-containing composition.

27. (New) The process of claim 22 wherein the polymer-containing composition is a polymer dispersion and wherein the filler particles comprise at least one other type of inorganic filler particles and the WDP gypsum particles have a particle size distribution mean diameter ranging from 30 μm to 250 μm .

28. (New) A process for preparing a surface coating, a surfacing compound, a sealing compound, an adhesive, or a molding composition comprising combining one or more water-soluble or water-dispersible polymers with WDP gypsum particles wherein the WDP gypsum particles are obtained from waste-gas desulphurization plants and have a particle size distribution mean diameter ranging from 13 μm to 500 μm to form the surface coating, surfacing compound, sealing compound, adhesive, or molding composition.

29. (New) The process of claim 28 wherein the particle size distribution mean diameter of the WDP gypsum particles ranges from 30 μm to 250 μm .

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30. (New) A surface coating, a surfacing compound, a sealing compound, an adhesive, or a molding composition prepared by the process of claim 28.

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